

Mayor's Message

March 2009

In our recently completed resident survey, respondents were asked to tell us how they felt about a wide variety of City services. I was pleased with the general positive responses they gave to everything from parks to water service. At the top of the satisfaction scale, was the service provided by our Fire Department, including the emergency medical services. As elected officials, we have made a concerted effort to improve this service over the past few years. I would like to share with you what has happened and some of the reasoning behind this effort.

With the annexation east of 900 East, a study was undertaken to review our emergency coverage of the City as a whole. At that time we had three fire stations located in the City. As we reviewed the placement of the stations, we realized that we needed to have more coverage east of 900 East. The recommendation was to either relocate two of our existing stations or build a fourth station in that area. As we studied the possibilities and long term implications, it was determined that three stations, strategically placed, would serve the best interests of all residents for many years. Running a fourth station would be more costly because of the additional personnel that would be required to operate it as well as the equipment that was necessary. We also looked at the size and condition of our existing facilities, especially the station on Bullion Street that was so small that it would not hold some of the engines.

Several years have passed and I am happy to report that we have accomplished our goals in this area. We have a new station located on 996 East Vine that is operational. At the end of this month we will also open a second station on 484 West 5900 South. These two new stations were built **without** increasing taxes. The station at 163 East 5900 South has become the home for the new Murray City ambulance service. This station is centrally located and works well to dispatch ambulances in all circumstances. I believe this new service is providing a higher level of care and better continuity of care to patients.

I hope you will watch for the opening of our newest station at 484 West and 5900 South and come by for a tour. This station has a feature that I am very happy to have in place - a new permanent Emergency Operation Center (EOC). We have had to set up our current center each time we have used it for drills. This EOC will be up and ready for practices as well as for any emergency.

As a City, we have worked to put these facilities in place to serve you in the best possible way. I would like to share in the coming year ways that we can be prepared to address emergency situations. I hope you will join me in better preparing yourselves and your families as we focus on a positive future.